(c) whether the introduction of Bt. Brinjal would affect the local farmers and traders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) Bt brinjal event EE-1 has been developed in compliance with the prevailing regulatory procedures and biosafety guidelines which conform to the international norms. The environmental safety assessment studies have been carrried out on pollen escape out- crossing, aggressiveness and weediness, effect of the gene on non-target organisms, presence of the protein in soil and its effect on soit microuflora, confirmation of the absence of Terminator Gene and baseline susceptibility studies. The food and feed safety assessment studies carried out include composition analysis, allergenicity and toxicological studies, and feeding studies on fish, chicken, cows and buffaloes.

(b) In accordance with the prescribed terms of reference, the Expert Committee reviewed the findings of the data generated during large scale trials, biosafety data of Bt brinjal provided by the developer, studies conducted by various institutions, published literature, reports from international/national groups and representations from NGOs, farmers, consumers and other stakeholders.

(c) The cumulative results of more than 50 field trials conducted to assess the safety, efficacy and agronomic performance of Bt brinjal demonstrate that Cry1Ac protein in Bt brinjal provides effective protection from the Fruit and Shoot Borer, a major pest in brinjal crop; resulting in enhanced economic benefits to the farmers and traders accrued from higher marketable yield and lower usage of pesticide sprays.

National GANGA RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

326. SHRI D. RAJA :
SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN :
SHRI R. C. SINGH :

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Ganga River Basin Authority has recently approved an ambitious project to prevent the discharge of untreated municipal sewage and industrial effluent into the Ganga by 2020;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the State Governments have also been asked to provide share of total investment;

(d) if so, the total investment required and share to be provided by the State Governments; and

(e) how Government is going to create funds for the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) to (e) The first meeting of the National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) held on 5th October 2009 resolved that by the year 2020, no untreated municipal sewage

or industrial effluent fiows into Ganga. Currently, there is a sewage treatment capacity of about 1,000 million litres per day (mld) against about 3,000 mld sewage being generated in the towns along Ganga. An estimated investment of Rs. 15,000 crore over the next 10 years will be required to create the necessary treatment and sewerage infrastructure, to be shared suitably between Centre and States after consultations with the Planning Commission. An allocation of Rs 250 crore has been provided by the Central Government for NGRBA in the current financial year.

Impact of global warming

327. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has faced impact of global warming recently like floods in coastal areas, drought and shortfall of rain in agricultural producing States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government is taking in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) and (b) There is no conclusive scientific study to substantiate that the recent floods in coastal areas, drought and shortfall of rain in agricultural producing States is due to global warming. The studies conducted by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) do not reveal confirmed findings about the adverse impact of climate change on Indian agriculture.

(c) A National Action Plan on climate change was launched in June 2008 which envisages *inter alia* National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture. The National Mission aims at developing strategies to make Indian agriculture more resilient to climate change through development of new varieties of thermal resistant crops, new credit and insurance mechanisms, better access to information and use of bio-technology.

Tiger Mortality

328. SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the nurnber of tigers died due to illness/poaching during the last two years, till date;

(b) the details of the poachers booked/arrested/sentenced during the above period; and

(c) the steps taken to save tigers from poachers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH) : (a) The details of tiger mortality, as reported by tiger States, are given in the Statement-I (See below).